

SAFETY PLANNING: PROTECT YOURSELF

- ➔ Stash some cash for emergencies.
- ➔ Pack an emergency bag with clothes, important documents, spare keys, and important phone numbers, and keep it in a safe place, or with a friend.
- ➔ Let someone know about your situation. Give them a code or phrase to signal if you're in danger.
- ➔ Practice an escape route and identify the safest rooms in your home.
- ➔ Teach your children to dial 911.

LEGAL RIGHTS: ABUSE IS A CRIME

You **DO** have legal options. If you are in danger, call the police. You may also file for a protective or peace order that requires the abuser to stop the violence and stay away from you, your home, place of business and children. Violating orders may be grounds for arrest. File for an order at your local court.

IF YOU ARE AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

**Maryland Network Against
Domestic Violence (MNADV)**

1-800-MD HELPS

or

TURNAROUND, INC.

410-377-8111

24-hr. Hotline: 410-828-6390

Offices in Baltimore City and County

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**Relationships
Shouldn't
Hurt**

She loves me.

She hits me.

She gives me presents.

He says he's never loved anyone like this.

He's threatened suicide if I ever leave him.

She says I'm the only one.

She rapes me.

She says no one else will ever love me.

FACTS TO KNOW:

- ➔ Domestic violence includes a broad spectrum of abusive behaviors.
- ➔ You don't have to be hit to be abused.
- ➔ Abuse can be verbal, emotional, psychological, and/or sexual.
- ➔ Abusive behaviors are oppressive, coercive, and controlling.

ARE YOU DATING OR LIVING WITH SOMEONE WHO:

- ➔ Is jealous and possessive, doesn't like you being with your friends, checks up on you, won't accept breaking up?
- ➔ Is scary. You worry about how they will react to things you say or do. This person threatens you, uses or owns weapons?
- ➔ Has hit, pushed, choked, restrained, kicked, or otherwise physically abused you?
- ➔ Blames you when he/she mistreats you saying you provoked him/her, pushed buttons, led him/her on?
- ➔ Uses your credit cards without permission, controls your money?
- ➔ Threatens to out you to friends, family or co-workers or makes you feel bad about past heterosexual experiences?

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE.
NO ONE DESERVES TO BE ABUSED.**

IF YOU HAVE A FRIEND WHO IS BEING ABUSED:

- ➔ Don't ignore it.
- ➔ Let him/her know privately that you're aware of the abusive situation.
- ➔ Be there as a friend.
- ➔ Be a good listener.
- ➔ Offer him/her support, the space to express hurt, anger, and fear and allow him/her to make his/her own decisions.
- ➔ Let your friend know that he/she is not responsible for the abuse and does not deserve it.
- ➔ Tell your friend about available resources.